

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251924

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XW, IR

SUBJECT:IRANIAN PERCEPTIONS OF EAST AFRICA

REF: TEHRAN 9210

1. DEPARTMENT VIEWS RECENT POLITICAL TREND IN EAST AFRICA AS NOT SO MUCH SHIFT IN CENTER OF GRAVITY AS GENERAL DECLINE IN SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL FOCUS. EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HAS COLLAPSED AS EFFECTIVE CENTRALIZING FORCE IN REGION; KENYA'S ATTENTION IS INCREASINGLY FOCUSED NORTHWARD ON THE HORN AND PARTICULARLY THE SOMALI THREAT; AND TANZANIA IS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA DUE TO ITS ROLE AS KEY MEMBER OF FRONT LINE. IN LATTER CAPACITY, AND PARTICULARLY DUE TO PERSONAL ABILITIES AND INFLUENCE OF NYERERE, TANZANIA HAS ATTAINED
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INCREASED PROMINENCE ON AFRICAN AND WORLD SCENE INCLUDING VIS-A-VIS WESTERN NATIONS.

2. AT SAME TIME, KENYATTA IS SHOWING INCREASING SIGNS OF PHYSICAL DECLINE, AND ACTIVITY LEVEL OF KENYA ON REGIONAL AND WORLD STAGE IS NOW SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, PERIOD OF CONGO TROUBLES IN MID-SIXTIES. NEVERTHE-

LESS, WE WOULD NOT DRAW CONCLUSION FROM THIS THAT KENYA IS "RUNNING OUT OF STEAM" OR THAT IT WILL NECESSARILY "SINK INTO MORASS" IN NEAR FUTURE AS IRANIANS FEAR. KENYAN ECONOMY HAS WITHSTOOD MULTIPLE SHOCKS OF RECENT YEARS FAR BETTER THAN ANYONE EXPECTED; DOMINANT KENYAN GROUPS REMAIN ENERGETIC AND SELF-CONFIDENT; AND LEADERSHIP POOL IN KENYA IS AS LARGE AS IN ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY EVEN IF IMMEDIATE SUCCESSION TO KENYATTA REMAINS SOMEWHAT CLOUDY.

3. OVERALL, WHILE WE WOULD NOT DISCOURAGE IRANIANS FROM OPENING A POST IN TANZANIA, PARTICULARLY IF IRAN SEES ROLE FOR ITSELF IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE WOULD CAUTION AGAINST WRITING OFF KENYA OR SEEING LONG-TERM REGIONAL TRENDS IN WHAT MAY ONLY BE TEMPORARY CONSTELLATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN BRIEFING IRANIANS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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